



Iowa County Engineers Office Organization
Growth-Progress-Unity

2009 ICEOO CONFERENCE

West Des Moines Marriott
1250 Jordan Creek Parkway
West Des Moines, IA 50266

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Registration for the 2009 30th Annual Conference was held in the southeast foyer from 9:00-10:00 a.m.

As members arrived they were greeted by the Registration Committee, given their conference materials packet and a gift from the ICEOO Board of a 30th Anniversary engraved desk clock. Also donated as gifts, were boxes of Suzette's Candies from Frank Dunn and spiral notebooks from Asphalt Paving Association.

A selection of pastries and fresh fruit, coffee, tea and other assorted drinks was offered, as well as an opportunity to view many scrapbooks from prior conferences. And also in celebration of our 30th anniversary, our Historian, Pam Mix, set up a nice power point show of many group pictures from the past.

Dana Batterson, President, opened the conference by welcoming everyone, introducing 2008 ICEOO Board members by committees, and the new 2009 board members. The new board members are as follows:

District 1 – Tara Breon, Boone
District 2 – Katie Bidwell, Butler
District 3 – Faye Hill, Woodbury
District 4 – Alice Pankonen, Cass
District 5 – Denice Gradeless, Wayne
District 6 – Linda Schaul, Delaware

Rosie Trees was introduced as the conference “Troubleshooter.” There is only one new member of our organization, Tara Breon, Boone County.

Gail Nordholm, Office of Local Systems, Iowa DOT, also welcomed the group, told everyone about their information packets, and then introduced Jim George, Dallas County Engineer for 12 years. Jim called our jobs, “noble,” in that it is working in public service and we are expected to

do more with less now. He also commented how important it is to meet, learn, exchange ideas and renew friendships. A vigorous applause was given.

After the first drawing for prizes, and a short break, Jan Hicks introduced the next speaker, Kevin Wenndt, from IPERS. He gave us some very pertinent information, stressing in particular that “IPERS is not taking any benefits that you have accrued.” He touted IPERS as still one of the best retirement plans in the country.

A delightful lunch buffet was presented consisting of various lunch meats and breads, cheeses, salads, and fruits. After lunch everyone reconvened for our next speaker, Jeff Johnson, introduced by board member, Janet Payne. Jeff had a video of the Rob & Aubry Standard Outreach Presentation. The tornado information, statistics, and video were spectacular. He advised us to use the web site www.weather.gov, enabling us to hone in on our own counties for weather watching and concerns.

After another drawing for those \$20 bills (!), and a short break-time, our next speaker was introduced by Pam McCracken. She was Diane Clevenger, ARNP, Womens Health Nurse Practitioner. Diane gave a video presentation on perimenopause, menopause, osteoporosis, and cancer. She also gave us some good handouts on all of those topics that are particularly important for women’s awareness and knowledge.

Another drawing was held and then President Dana Batterson awarded those persons who have served their counties for 20 years. They are Deanna McDonald from District 1, Sharon Rockow from District 2, and Kathy Copeland from District 4. There were no retirees this year. Dana announced the board members who have completed their 3-year terms: Deb Fondell, Dubuque; Lori Hackett, Pottawattamie; Darla Negus, O’Brien; Rosie Trees, Butler; Pam Mix, Jasper; and Dana Batterson, Davis. A lot of appreciation goes out to these women who have contributed so much.

The Traveling Trophy Award for the district who had all members in attendance at our conference was once again given to DISTRICT IV!

Dana made announcements regarding the evenings activities to include the special entertainment—The Judge Story Theatrical Troupe-One Act Comedy Show and this year’s specially decorated and event-promising hospitality room-“Beach Party Style,” to commemorate our organization’s 30th anniversary! Many thanks are due to Gail Nordholm for arranging for the excellent one-act play troupe to entertain us. And also thank yous go out to Debbie Salter & Dana Batterson for the fantastic decorations and beach party extravaganza. Congratulations to the hula girls of District 3 for winning the best costume award! Other awards were given, prizes were drawn for, games were played, there were a lot of LOLs, and a great time was had by all.

Friday, September 25, 2009

After a delicious breakfast buffet was served, President Dana Batterson opened the Business Meeting. Charlene Johnson, Mills, moved that last year’s conference Secretary’s Report be approved. Belinda Ogle, Taylor, seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report showed a balance of \$18,339.10, before additional conference expenses. Deb Fondell, Dubuque moved the report be approved. Pam Mix, Jasper, seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Batterson then brought up the issue of sending flowers and cards to our members or their family members. The following clarification is being made: We will no longer send flowers or cards as an organization. Districts, however, are free to do so.

Our 2009-2010 officers were announced: President, Debbie Salter; Vice-President, Angie Roderick; Secretary, Pam McCracken; Treasurer, Vicki Hillock; and Historian, Denice Gradeless.

A motion to close the Business Meeting was made by Judy Ridnour, Page. A second to the motion was made by Rosie Trees, Butler. The motion was approved unanimously.

Our next speaker, introduced by Nichole Brown, was LeRoy Bergmann, Office of Local Systems, Iowa DOT. Mr. Bergmann chose to speak about the I-Jobs Spending Report. He went through the report on the web and explained how to complete it. Dana Batterson then introduced Steve DeVries, ICEA Service Bureau. He shared what the Service Bureau has been working on: 1) New version TPMS, 2) ARRA & I-Jobs Programming, 3) Iowa is host for NACE in 2013.

The grand prize drawing for the \$50 bills was held as follows: District 1: Denette Bovey, District 2: Kathy Fletcher, District 3: Faye Hill, District 4: Becky Randeris, District 5: Rhea Wilson, and District 6: Mary Lammers. Congratulations were made to each of them.

And finally, an energizing speaker herself, Dr. Celina Peerman, Ph.D, PHR was introduced by Jan Hix. Dr. Peerman spoke on "Re-Energize Your Workplace." She started by calling this session "Group Therapy." She emphasized how revitalizing our work places starts with each of us, and we must make the best use of our energy. One significant quote she shared was "If you don't know where you're going, anywhere will do." A highlight was watching the FISH video, about a fish market in Washington and showing how they "have fun," interacting with each other, their customers, and their fish! (YouTube-Throwing Fish in Seattle) Each of us should have left the conference with some outstanding advice from Dr. Peerman.

President Dana Batterson gave closing remarks and then introduced our 2009-2010 ICEOO President, Ms. Debbie Salter, Wapello County. Debbie ended the conference with a very nice reading and wished everyone safe travel.

Pam McCracken
Secretary